

TWO HUNDRED REPORTED LOST IN TEN MILLION DOLLAR BLAZE.

Three Great Ocean Steamships Destroyed.

LOSS WAS ENORMOUS.

The Piers of the North German Lloyds Entirely Consumed.

THE FIRE SPREAD RAPIDLY.

Within Fifteen Minutes After Its Discovery, Over a Third of a Mile of Water Front Was One Mass of Flames—Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse Escaped, Clearing Docks.

NEW YORK, June 30.—Almost ten million dollars' worth of property was destroyed, many lives were lost, many persons were injured, and at least 1,500 lives were imperiled by fire that started among cotton bales stored on Pier No. 3 of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, in Hoboken, N. J., at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

In less than fifteen minutes the flames covered an area a quarter of a mile long, and had caught four great ocean liners and a dozen or more smaller harbor craft. Stories in regard to the loss of life are conflicting, the number being variously estimated at from fifty to two hundred. Up to midnight ten bodies had been recovered, but they were all so burned and blackened that identification was impossible. The hospitals in New York, Hoboken and Jersey City are crowded with the injured, and men are being brought in by scores.

The spectacle was witnessed by thousands and thousands from both shores, and by other thousands who crowded every variety of river craft that could be secured.

Along the Jersey shore small fires were blazing, started by the wreckage of the fire from the big steamships. Over on this side of the river the fire caused the greatest excitement, and drifting steamers and barges all flame floated to this shore and brushed against the piers at Murray Street. The fire department was called out along the various sections.

There were hundreds of men on each of the destroyed steamships and a few women. Crowds of dock laborers and also employees of the companies were on the piers. Men, women and children were on the canal boats and men on the barges and lighters, and when the fire made its quick descent upon them escape was cut off before they realized their awful position. The people on the piers jumped into the water to save themselves, and scores of men huddled under the piers, clinging to the supports, only to be suffocated by the flames or to drop back into the water from exhaustion.

Men working in the holds of the four steamships were shut in by walls of flames and it was impossible to reach them. It probably never will be known how many perished in the ships, as the flames would leave few, if any, remnants of the human bodies.

The greatest loss of life appears to have been on the Saale. She carried 400 people, and was to have sailed for Boston this evening. When the police boat captain went out with his landing party he saw the ship on fire and the deck. The steamship Bremen carried a crew of 300 men, and the Main 250, and if as many lives were lost as on the Saale, the number of dead will be very great.

The loss on the North German docks alone is placed at \$2,000,000. The value of the great quantities of cotton, oil and various other merchandise on the docks has not been estimated. The loss to the North German Lloyd Steamship Company alone will probably come close to \$10,000,000. The five storehouses of the Campbell Company were greatly damaged, the loss on one building alone being placed at \$1,500,000.

The Germania pier was burned and the docks of the Hamburg-American Line suffered greatly. A number of small buildings in Hoboken were destroyed at one of the wharves, with their contents, but no idea of the value of the things obtained. The amount of insurance carried cannot be learned.

Up to 2 o'clock twenty-five bodies had been recovered.

From what can be learned to-night the flames started among a large pile of cotton bales in Pier 2 of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company and spread with such remarkable rapidity that within fifteen minutes the entire property, taking in over a third of a mile of water front, and consisting of three great piers, was completely enveloped in a huge blaze that sent great clouds of smoke up into the air.

The flames started so suddenly and gained such headway that the people on the piers and on the numerous vessels docked were unable to reach the street. There were great gangs of workmen on the piers and these, together with a number of people who were at the docks on business and visiting the ships, scattered in all directions. As all means of exit were cut off by the flames they were forced to jump overboard, and no doubt a great number of people were drowned.

At the docks of the North German Lloyd was the Saale, a single screw passenger ship of 4,365 gross tons; the Bremen, a twin screw passenger and freight steamer of 10,526 tons; and the Main, a twin screw freight and passenger steamer of 12,500 gross tons. They all caught fire and were burned to the water's edge. The Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, which had just come in, was the only one of the four big vessels at the dock that escaped. The fire was first discovered by a watchman on the pier at 4 o'clock. He saw a small streak of flame shoot from a bale of cotton on Pier No. 2. At which was docked the steamer Saale. He immediately sent an alarm.

WIND SHIFTED.

In a few minutes the flames had extended to the steamship and were communicated to the adjoining pier. Here were docked the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse and the Main. Tugs were immediately made fast to the big Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, and she was gotten out into midstream with safety, although badly scorched at the bows. The steamship Main, however, was doomed, as the flames had already become so fierce on the north side of the pier that no tug could approach the vessel. Then by a shift in the wind the flames were sent in the direction of Pier No. 1, which was to the south end of Pier No. 2. The north of Pier No. 1 was the dock of the Hamburg Line, at which the steamship Phoenixia, a twin-screw passenger steam-

All the Hospitals are Over-Crowded.

MANY BOUND TO DIE.

By Ten o'Clock There Were More Than 200 Victims.

THE SCENES WERE APPALLING.

Men and Women, Crazy by the Heat, Leaped from the Vessels Only to Meet a Watery End—Some a Fiery Death—Some Heroic Rescues Were Made.

er of 6,761 gross tons, was docked. The flames got a good hold on the Phoenixia, and she was towed out into midstream ablaze.

The officials of the Hamburg-American Line then decided that the only way to prevent a total destruction of their great pier was to blow up the side of the dock at which the Phoenixia lay, and this was done. A number of barges docked at the pier took fire, but in the effort to save the other property no attention was paid to them and they were allowed to burn.

It is feared that the loss in the hold of the vessel was frightful, and it is said that many firemen who were asleep at the time were imperiled there.

MANY PERISH.

The worst tale will come from the steamship Main, which was unable to be towed from the pier. The vessel had not only been burned, and some passengers were still on board, and when the cry of fire was raised a number of them were seen to run to the burning decks. Most of them jumped overboard, and save for the few who were picked up by the tugs, not one has been heard from, although every hotel and hospital in the city of Hoboken is crowded with injured.

Some of the passengers of the Main tried to escape to the pier, and it is almost certain that they perished in the flames. Many persons jumped overboard, and the water for some distance along the docks was lined with people. They were clinging to the piers and even to the rudders of the burning vessels. Some were picked up; many were drowned. Peter Quinn, a justice of the peace in Hoboken, tells a story of having seen at least thirty people perish. He said:

"I was standing on the end of one of the Hamburg-American Line piers, and saw about thirty people crowd under Pier 3 of the North German Lloyd. They were calling to some of the passing tugs, but their appeals were in vain, and when the flames got near they dived into the water. There was no assistance near them at the time, and I believe every one was drowned or perished in the flames."

FIREMEN HELPLESS.

About two hundred people were rescued at the Hamburg-American Line pier. They were mostly overcome from exhaustion, but soon revived with stimulants. When the fire broke out such headway was gained by the time the Hoboken Fire Department arrived that they were utterly helpless to cope with the flames.

They were further handicapped by having several hundred feet of hose burned. Calls were made to the New York Fire Department for assistance, and fire tugs were sent over. These, however, had but little effect on the great mountain of flame and smoke.

By 7 o'clock the three piers of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company had been burned to the ground. The southern end of the Campbell Storage Company, consisting of five five-story structures, caught fire, and flames shot from every window from two floors in but a few minutes. The building, being filled mainly with jute and whiskey, burned rapidly. The firemen were unable to go within fighting distance, and the fire had pretty much its own way there. In these buildings great loss will be sustained.

SIX MEN ABOARD.

The steamers Saale and Bremen after being pulled free from the docks were towed down the bay toward the head of Liberty Island. On the Bremen, as she sailed out in midstream, six men could be seen waving handkerchiefs for assistance. Tug boats and small boats darted around the big steamships, making every effort to save the men, but the terrible heat from the flames kept them away.

The saving of the great Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse was attended with exciting incidents. It seemed as if it would never be possible to get her clear, and the fire was spreading so rapidly that it threatened at almost any moment to break out on the big ship. The great hawsers in the confusion could not be handled well and axes were brought into use to chop them, causing fire and flames shot from out into midstream and then far up the river. Her bows were slightly burned.

Five minutes after the fire broke out a woman jumped from one of the ships in a vain effort to reach the water. The flames drove her from the ship and she plunged heedlessly in the direction in which it seemed that safety lay. She jumped into a burning lighter alongside the ship and when an officer on board ship, who still stayed with the doomed vessel, saw her and realized what would be her fate he plunged down after her, hoping to drag her out of the burning lighter into the water. He followed her within a couple of seconds, and both went under the flames in the lighter and perished.

FIREMEN SUFFERED.

The rapid spread of the flames is accounted for by the shifting of the wind. When the fire first broke out the wind was blowing strongly from the south. This drove the flames across to the pier above the one on which it started. Within a few moments the wind shifted almost directly to the opposite point. Under the great pavilion, on the land, the flames were soon in absolute control. Had not the recourse to dynamite been taken to destroy the Hamburg pier, the flames might have gone on. All the fire boats and tugs in the harbor would not have stopped them.

The flames in the cotton kept the fire at an immense heat, and the firemen suffered greatly. Again and again it seemed as if they must abandon the fight. The vantage points at which they could attack the flames were few, and their efforts were necessarily hampered. Some of the firemen on hook and ladder truck No. 2, of Jersey City, had a narrow escape. They had gotten out as far as they could on the pier to the south of the blazing docks, and were endeavoring to recover bodies of persons who might have gotten under it. There was a burst of flame from the pier

GOEBEL MURDER AGAIN RECALLED

Robert Noaks in Custody as Accessory in Crime.

ARRESTED IN WISE.

Organization on Kentucky Border to Release Him.

PRISONER BROUGHT TO BRISTOL

Constable Harrod, of Frankfort, Ky., on His Way to Richmond to Secure Requisition Papers for Noaks, Who Will Not Return to Kentucky Without Regular Process.

BRISTOL, TENN., June 30.—Special.—Constable H. D. Harrod, of Frankfort, Ky., arrested at Big Stone Gap, Va., at an early hour this morning, Robert Noaks, who is wanted on the charge of having been an accessory to the murder of William Goebel. Noaks is a married man, thirty-two years of age. He has been a conductor on the Louisville and Nashville Railway for ten years, and had charge of the train which carried the 1300 armed mountaineers into Frankfort during the excitement over the Governorship.

REPUBLICAN EDITOR.

Two years ago Noaks edited a Republican paper at Corbin, his home, and states that he has always taken an active hand in the political fights of the Eleventh Congressional District of Kentucky. Having learned that his arrest was contemplated, Noaks left Corbin and went to Virginia.

ORGANIZED RESCUE.

Constable Harrod brought Noaks to Bristol this afternoon, having been informed of an organization on the Kentucky border to accomplish his release. Noaks is being held here under guard, while Constable Harrod has gone to Richmond to make application to the Governor of Virginia for requisition papers.

To a reporter Noaks said: "I am innocent, but will not leave Virginia except by legal process."

VICTORY FOR FLOOD.

Returns from Precincts in Amherst County Look This Way.

LYNCHBURG, VA., June 30.—Special.—In the primary election to-day in Amherst returns from various precincts indicate a majority for Flood.

PASSING WORTHLESS CHECKS.

NEW YORK, June 30.—Thomas Holmes Herbert Plumridge, who was arrested yesterday on a charge of passing worthless checks, was arraigned in the Police Court to-day and held in \$500 bail for examination Monday. Plumridge when arrested said he was formerly in the employ of F. W. Wagner, a banker of Charleston, S. C. In his possession were found two checks on the Enterprise National Bank of Charleston, payable to himself and signed "F. W. Wagner."

OWNS A RAILROAD.

Mr. H. Kell, of Gumburg, N. C., who was at the Lexington yesterday, boasted of the fact that he was the only man in North Carolina who owns a railroad all by himself. His road runs from Garysburg to Gumburg.

TO SUCCEED WHEELER.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 30.—Returns received up to 9 o'clock indicate that Judge W. Richardson has carried the Eighth Congressional District, and will be the Democratic nominee to succeed General Joseph Wheeler for his unexpired term in Congress.

Many Will Be Idle.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 30.—Pending a settlement of the wage question 10,000 coal miners will be idle. This comes as a blow to the coal industry, and will be the Democratic nominee to succeed General Joseph Wheeler for his unexpired term in Congress.

REAR ADMIRAL JOHN W. PHILIP, U. S. N.

NEW YORK, June 30.—Rear-Admiral John W. Philip, commander of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, died at 3:15 to-day of heart disease.

During the war with Spain Admiral Philip commanded the battleship Texas, and participated in the destruction of Havana. He was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral by the passage of the naval personnel bill.

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DANIEL DOES NOT WANT IT

But Would Accept the Vice-Presidency

IF TENDERED TO HIM.

The Information Comes From Reliable Source.

VERY CLOSE TAX COLLECTING.

The Treasurer of Lynchburg Breaks the Record, the Delinquents Being Less Than One Per Cent.

LYNCHBURG, VA., June 30.—Special.—The information furnished by your correspondent in regard to Senator Daniel and the Vice-Presidency was secured from a most reliable source and may be regarded as absolutely trustworthy. Major Daniel does not want the Vice-Presidency and he is not seeking it, but he would accept the nomination if it should be offered him by the convention.

A FINE RECORD.

Out of \$55,000 assessed for collecting, the city tax collector of Lynchburg has failed to collect only \$1.50, which is a record that has never before been made here and has probably never been surpassed by any city in the State. The delinquent list is just a little over one per cent of the total.

MR. GERHARD SULLING and wife, and Mr. and Mrs. D. Mosses and their son, Mr. Milton Mosses, leave to-morrow for New York city, whence they will sail by the steamer Rhein for Europe to visit the Exposition.

MAJOR CABELL.

Major Ellett Cabell, of the United States Army, now stationed in the Philippines, is at home on a leave of absence. He left today for Nelson county to visit relatives, preparatory to returning to his command.

MR. SMITH TAKES CHARGE.

He and His Deputies Will Run the Jail for the Next Two Years.

Richmond's New City Sergeant, Mr. James C. Smith, assumed formal charge of the office at the jail at 12 o'clock last night. The retiring Sergeant, Mr. H. C. Epps, was represented by Deputy W. H. C. Ralston, who made the transfer. There were 124 prisoners turned over, including three inmates, Captains Johnson and Ralston, representing the two sergeants, met in the office of the jail about 11:30 and fixed up the papers and Mr. Smith signed them promptly at 12 o'clock, and by that act he took charge of the office he relinquished twelve years ago, and which he has steadily fought for in each succeeding election.

Nearly all the deputies of both Messrs. Smith and Epps witnessed the transfer, and he was warmly congratulated all round.

Following is the list of Sergeant Smith's assistants: Deputies—J. M. Mason, C. M. Johnston, James E. Taylor, F. W. Chamberlayne, P. H. Bowie and E. M. Noble.

Guards—W. G. Tait, Thomas J. Smith, Claude Hoy and M. E. Belne.

The retiring officers are Messrs. E. S. Thompson, W. D. Welsiger, Joseph B. Johnston, W. H. C. Ralston, R. W. Gill. The guards who go out are T. P. Saunders, H. J. Mescoe and M. P. Martin.

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HAMMERS BANG IN KANSAS CITY

Rushing Work on the Great Convention Hall.

A CONTEST IS LIKELY

Over the Sixteen to One Plank in the Platform.

CANDIDATES ON THE GROUND.

Towne, Chievely and Sulzer, All Vice-Presidential Possibilities, Have Arrived in the Convention City—Talk of Nominating Bryan on Fourth of July Renewed.

KANSAS CITY, MO., June 30.—There is a constant bang, bang of hammers, rasping of saws, shouting of orders and rushing of feet day and night at the big hall where the Democratic Convention is to be held. As fast as one portion of the structure of the building is finished, the decorators pounce upon it with bolts of bunting, flags and pictures of Democratic leaders set in the national coats of arms, cover up the walls and spaces so that the delegates who assemble on the Fourth holiday, crowded with evidences of a Democratic celebration.

Some fears are expressed by new arrivals regarding the possible failure to have the hall ready in time, but the sentiment Western push and energy characteristic of Kansas City encourages the belief that everything will be ready when Chairman Jones, of the National Committee, calls the convention to order next Wednesday at noon.

FAMILIAR FACES.

The decorations on the outside of the State delegates' headquarters are not in place save in a few instances, and only here and there are they ornamented with flags, but by Monday there will be a great change in their appearance. As it rains here nearly every day and night at this time, decorations would soon be disfigured, and they are therefore being saved in order that they may be fresh when the delegates come.

About the hotels, however, there is already a brilliant and moving throng of familiar convention faces. A number of old-line Democrats who have been going to conventions for years and the younger men who belong to the "new Democracy" have arrived and taken up the work in hand.

Several of the Vice-Presidential candidates have come in and are making considerable noise. Delegates are arriving from different sections, and the pling in from different sections, and the meeting of the sub-committee on Convention Arrangements attracted quite a knot of men about the national headquarters.

A CONTEST LIKELY.

As on the most interesting topic, and that which gives the Democrats here the most concern, is the promised contest over the 16 to 1 plank of the platform. The utterances of the National Committee, William Jennings Bryan, and other Western and Southern leaders, together with the action of Western and Southern State Conventions in their platforms, would seem to indicate that a simple reaffirmation of the Chicago platform will be a concession.

Such action under ordinary circumstances would be accepted as the probable action of the National Convention, but the representatives from the Chicago platform are so strongly declared that 16 to 1 must be specifically declared in the views of Mr. Bryan are to be followed. There are so many delegates who desire to carry out the wishes of the coming nominee that the clash between them and those holding different views is likely to be a hotly contested one, and the result somewhat doubtful.

Chairman Jones said that the declaration of silver would not vary the breadth of a hair from that contained in the Chicago platform, and he thinks a reaffirmation is sufficient. The breadth of a hair, however, is still too wide for some, and they favor splitting the hair, especially if the extreme silver men insist that "a reaffirmation will be a concession." Gold men and others who have returned to the party say such a concession is sufficient.

So the hall that Senator Jones spoke about seems to be wide enough to cause a lively contest when the platform is under consideration.

VICE-PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES.

There are some other features of the platform that may not be agreed upon at once—expansion, the present Chinese situation and the Coeur d'Alene riots, but the differences over these can be readily adjusted, as they are rather fore-ordained or susceptible of manipulation by the platform experts.

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ABSOLUTELY NOTHING KNOWN OF FATE OF MINIS

Great Anxiety Felt on No Side of Their Account.

RELIEF FORCEROUTED THE

Waller's Command Ambushed and Compelled to Retreat.

KEMPFF'S COURSE IS APPROVED.

He Objected to Beginning an Attack on Chinese Until They Committed Some Hostile Act—The Firing on Taku Forts Made the Chinese Allies of the Boxers.

LONDON, July 1.—4 A. M.—The total absence of news from China leaves the situation, especially the fate of the ministers, as obscure as ever, and the London news agencies are endeavoring to find light in other European capitals. One states that the Chinese Legation at Berlin declares that there is every reason to believe that the powers are willing to accept the intervention of Li Hung Chang and others.

A St. Petersburg correspondent quotes the Novosti as stating that the Russian official view is that Russia must play the leading role in the suppression of the revolt, that her interests are supreme in Northern China, and that she must have the ruling voice in the settlement with the Pekin Government.

MINISTERS STILL IN PEKIN.

They Were Safe Five Days Ago—No State of War Yet.

WASHINGTON, June 30.—For the time since the break in the communication with Tien Tsin news came from Minister there, which the officials as such sources that the ministers were badly at least, up to five days ago, set to relieve all doubt on that point, the agreement with dispatches from a minister Kempff, or United States Consul Pagsdale, at Tien Tsin, and Minister Wu Pao-shan, at Peking, would seem to afford a solid basis for the acceptance of the statement.

The news of the day, important though it is, has not changed the policy of the government toward China. There is no intention to show that the government is responsible to a degree warranting the declaration of a state of war, therefore the plan is to push forward in the effort to bring away the foreign ministers, doing this side by side with the other powers, and leaving all other questions for future determination. If the Chinese government declares war on our forces, then they have declared war, and if that fact shall be established, the government will act accordingly.

On the other hand, if the Chinese government was not directly party to the rising, then it has demonstrated its incapacity and must reckon with the United States government hereafter for the heavy losses inflicted upon its citizens and its interests. Meanwhile, as our commanders in China appear to be following a proper course, they will be left unhampered by further instructions at this juncture, and will not even be reinforced unless they request it.

The above were the conclusions reached at a Cabinet council to-day. There is still no war with China.

It may be noted that Admiral Kempff's prudent course, as set out in the news dispatches, and in the absence of official statements, of the unqualified approval of the administration.

DESTROYING MISSIONS.

Rebellion of Boxers Spreading in Chang Tung Province.

LONDON, June 30.—A special from Shanghai says the railway between Tien Tsin and Taku is now in working order. A telegram from Chefoo, dated yesterday (Friday), reports that a Japanese steamer has arrived with a number of ladies and Chinese from New Chang, which is now defended by Russians and Japanese.

The Chang Tung province is now up in arms, according to special dispatches from Shanghai, and the insurgents are destroying the missions. The foreigners are escaping by means of an escort from the Governor. Boxer placards have been posted at Yut Kaiting, a city 100 miles from Shanghai, fixing Sunday as a day for massacre of the foreigners and the burning of the missions. The consuls have detained a steamer which will take away the foreigners.

Yout Mr. Denby, son of the Governor for to China, Colonel Charles, has been reported from Shanghai as being safe.

According to Chinese reports the German coal mines at Chow Fu, in Chang Tung, have been set on fire. The German authorities are waiting for the reports, are awaiting a cavalry escort which is expected to relieve them.

The city of Chin Chow, according to other advices received from China, has been attacked by the Boxers, who are now holding it. The missions have been destroyed, the members barely escaping with their lives.

MINISTERS IN PEKIN.

Were Given Twenty-Four Hours to Leave, but Refused.

WASHINGTON, June 30.—The Navy Department has received the following telegram from Admiral Kempff:

"Secretary of the Navy, Washington: 'Ministers at Pekin were given twenty-four hours to leave on the 15th. They refused and are still there. The Pekin relief forces got half-way. They were